



Part 1: Relationships for Dummies

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As humans, we are all created for relationship.

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

The most important relationship in your entire existence
is your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Every human relationship we have should be a reflection
of the relationship we have with Jesu Christ.

Which set of descriptors better represents your relationships?

- immorality
- idolatry
- discord
- fits of rage
- dissensions
- envy
- impurity
- hatred
- jealousy
- selfish ambition
- factions

OR

- love
- peace
- kindness
- faithfulness
- self-control
- joy
- patience
- goodness
- gentleness

These descriptors are known as the "sins of the flesh" and Galatians 5:21 warns us that people "who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God".

These descriptors are known as the "fruit of the Spirit" and Galatians 5:24-26 says, "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

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In our relationships, Jesus has called us to:

Crucify the sinful nature

Live by the Spirit

Keep in step with the Spirit

Don't be arrogant

Don't provoke

Don't envy

2 Corinthians 13:5-9

⁵Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? ⁶And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. ⁷Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. ⁸For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. ⁹We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored.

Next Steps

Two new classes have just begun that could revolutionize your relationships. **If you'd like to take part in one of these classes, you must act today.** Register for either class at the Connection Point on your way out today. Full details are in What's Happening.

Boundaries

8 Monday Nights, May 2–June 27
6:30-8:30 PM in Room 215 • \$15

Learn how saying “no” to certain people, commitments and compulsions can free you up to say “yes” to the things that bring contentment and joy to your life and to others. Build healthy boundaries to strengthen every relationship in your life.

Dealing With Difficult People

6 Monday Nights, May 2–June 13 (Coed)
6:30-8:00 PM in Room 216 • \$25

OR 6 Wed. Mornings, May 4–June 8
(Women only)

6:30-8:00 PM in Room 216 • \$25

This class offers insightful strategies for coping with challenging people in a godly way, while handling the intense emotions that their actions and attitudes provoke.

Small Group Questions



- 1) What is the most important relationship in your life? Why?
- 2) Describe the characteristics of a healthy relationship? Do your characteristics line up with the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5?
- 3) Discuss the following statement: “Relationships were not designed to make us happy, but to make us holy.” Agree or disagree?
- 4) Read 2 Corinthians 13:5-9. Which relationships in your life need to be restored? As you embrace the process of examination, what needs to change in you in order for God to bring about restoration. (If your answer is “nothing,” you may want to examine yourself again!)
- 5) How do you “keep in step with the Spirit” as Galatians 5:25 encourages us to do?
- 6) How can we pray for you today?